
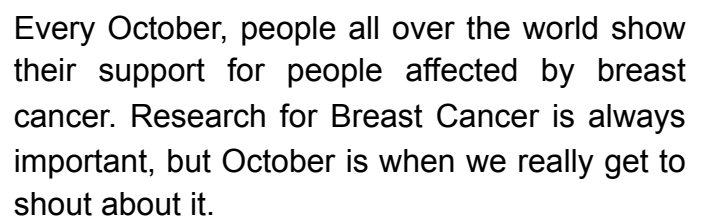


Hello my name is Sheila Biggins and I am the North West Women's Regional Lead Officer. I hope to pop these newsletters out every now and then to keep you informed and up to date on what's going on in our region.

I am involved with the North West Trade Union Congress (TUC) and currently sit on their NWTUC Equality Forum



## Breast Cancer Awareness



Along with raises awareness throughout October on social media with 4 different CWU Breast Cancer Awareness banners, I also held a wear it Pink Day on the 23rd October and raised a grand total of **£875.**

## Domestic Violence Month

For many, home is a place of love, warmth, and comfort. It's somewhere that you know you will be surrounded by care and support, and a nice little break from the hustle and bustle of the real world. But for millions, home is anything but a sanctuary. This year, COVID-19 has caused a huge increase in domestic abuse incidents of all forms, so awareness and support are more critical than ever.

Again I raised awareness on social media with 5 different CWU Domestic Violence banners. I also organised a one day Domestic Abuse Course with the help and support of Karen Kendrick, North West Assistant Secretary and trained Union Learning Rep (ULR)



## Black History Month



Hi, Peter Pascall here. For those who don't know me, I'm the North West BAME Lead. I work for BT at Lancaster House Liverpool. My Department VVS (Voice Ventures Services) acts as an operator for standard 999 calls (all 4 emergency services). Other roles included are Relay UK operators ([www.relayuk.bt.com](http://www.relayuk.bt.com)) and emergency ESMS (Emergency Short Message Service), or to the layman text messages. In addition to the emergency calls we provide a service, to make it easier for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired customers to make phone calls. Anything from phoning a relative to a bank, we are the conduit for the relaying of the information in that phone call.

The aim of Black History month is to promote and celebrate Black contributions to British society, and to foster an understanding of Black History in general. It's origins go back to the 1920's and the establishment of Negro History Week in the United States (US).

I've been really busy along with the rest of the National BAME Leads arranging activities and events on social media, which included a show of support on the 16th October for Show Racism The Red Card (SRTRC) and producing the 'Why did?' video's where BAME CWU members and reps shared their experiences of racial abuse and how it made them feel. I also raised awareness when I helped organised and chair our BAME themed Regional Equality meeting on 21st October, where we raised important issues that not only affect BAME individuals but society as a whole. Many of these issues the union represents on, supports and strives for and are inextricably linked.

I've also recently set up a discussion group via social media to make the BAME issues less diluted with the main issues that affect the rest of my Region and to have it more laser focussed. We need more representation especially BAME women, if you would like to be more involved or want more information you can get in touch with your Branch, email me at [peterpacall01@gmail.com](mailto:peterpacall01@gmail.com) or Sheila Biggins.



## 5th November BT National Day of Action

CWU members stepped up during this Covid pandemic, proud to be key workers and essential frontline workers keeping this country running, all have gone above and beyond.

BT, EE and Openreach are on the attack. They want to increase profit by cutting costs and that means attacking the terms and conditions of our members and introducing compulsory redundancies for them.

Despite Covid restrictions, branches and regional **Count Me In** campaign committees across the country are finding new and innovative ways to highlight and harness an unprecedented wave of workforce fury at the poor treatment of 'key workers' by a new generation of senior management.



## 19th November BT ballot



BT, EE and Openreach members will be receiving their ballot papers. The e-ballot papers were despatched to all members' personal email addresses from Thursday November 19, with the ballot closing three weeks later on December 10, when the result will be announced.

Here is a message from Dave Ward - Vote YES #CountMeIn

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1012195052525073>

## 24th November CountWomenIn FB Live

Chaired by Tracey Fussey (CWU NEC) the panel was packed full of women speakers Racheal Hopkins (MP for Luton South), Karen Rose (CWU President), Sara Miah (Assistant Secretary North Anglia Branch), Una McMahon (Women's Officer South East Central Branch), Mel Wilson (EE National Team) and last but not least our very own Angela Teeling (Assistant Secretary Greater Mersey and SW Lanc's Branch).



The **Counting on women** event was an inspiration to watch and was viewed in real time by more than 4,500 across social media, and by more than double that number since.

BT's assault on our members Terms & Conditions (T&C) has had a disproportionate impact on female employees, the company has been warned to practice what it preaches on equality.

Karen Rose, warned BT's senior management team to expect a determined fightback from women who have simply had enough.

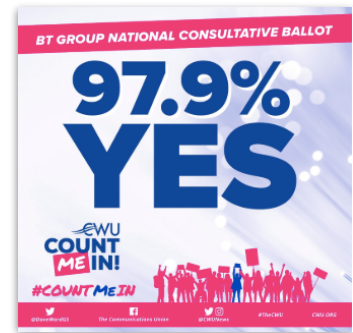
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## 10th December- Ballot Result

As expected an absolutely amazing result, the high level of support from the members is what makes the CWU one of the best unions in the country. Well done to our BT, EE and Openreach members 🙌🙌 and our Headquarters Team.

The CWU announced the ballot result LIVE on social media see the link below.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46VkaDKTX3g&ab\\_channel=CWULive](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46VkaDKTX3g&ab_channel=CWULive)



## 26th November-Saturday Letter Deliveries

Royal Mail has moved a step closer to scrapping Saturday letter deliveries after research from the postal regulator found there would be no significant impact on consumers.

Ofcom, which estimates the move could save Royal Mail £225m a year, said cutting Saturday deliveries would still allow the company to “meet the needs of nearly all people and businesses” **The Guardian**

Responding to today’s press release from OFCOM CWU General Secretary Dave Ward said ‘At a time when postal services have never been more essential and we should be investing in our national infrastructure, we should be looking for ways to protect and enhance a six day universal postal service, not for reasons to cut it back.’

“While letter volumes have continued to decline, there is huge demand for affordable high quality parcel services that cover every part of the country and during the pandemic Royal Mail has handled over 90% of all Covid-19 testing kits. A 6 day universal service remains essential to the UK and we should be looking at building new products and services into it to support its long-term sustainability rather than managing its decline.”

To see Dave’s full reply click the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/ThecommunicationsUnion/posts/3550761405003313>



Let's hope 2021 brings back some kind of normalcy and all the things we miss about day to day life, like meeting up face to face, holding love ones and feeling safe.

No matter how you felt about 2020 put it behind you and move forward into the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement. Motivate yourself and inspire yourself to do your best in the new year.

**Merry Christmas Everyone**

